

Wisconsin - Number 1 in Mink Pelt Production and Females Bred

Wisconsin continues to lead the United States in mink pelt production and females bred. Mink pelt production in 2005 totaled 778,000, an increase of 1 percent from 2004. Wisconsin's pelt production accounted for 30 percent of the nation's total pelt production in both 2004 and 2005.

By color class, the number of pelts produced in Wisconsin as a percent of the state total were: Black - 61 percent; Mahogany - 13 percent; Blue Iris - 11 percent; White - 6 percent; Sapphire - 4 percent; and Pastel - 1 percent. The other 4 percent were colors that were not published to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Females bred in Wisconsin to produce kits in 2006 declined 1 percent to 188,000. This accounted for 29 percent of the U.S. total compared with 30 percent a year ago.

The number of farms producing pelts in Wisconsin at 67, was unchanged from 2004.

Nationwide, mink pelt production during 2005 totaled 2.63 million pelts, up 3 percent from 2004. After Wisconsin's production of 778,000 pelts, Utah came in second with 600,000 pelts.

Females bred in the United States to produce kits in 2006 totaled 651,600, up 2 percent from the previous year.

Mink pelts produced during the 2005 crop year were valued at \$160 million, up 33 percent from \$120 million a year earlier. The average U.S. price per pelt for the 2005 crop year was \$60.90, up from \$47.10 in 2004.

There were 277 mink farms producing pelts in 2005, down 6 percent from a year earlier. Leading states were Utah with 70 farms, Wisconsin with 67 farms, and Minnesota with 24. There were 21 mink farms in the U.S. which also raised fox in 2005, up from 17 the previous year.

Wisconsin Mink

Year	Mink ranches	Females bred	Pelts produced	Average price 1/	Value pelts
	Number	Thousands		Dollars	Million dollars
1995	107	185	786	53.10	41.7
1996	106	195	837	35.30	29.5
1997	103	197	835	33.10	27.6
1998	94	182	801	24.80	19.9
1999	82	166	732	33.70	24.7
2000	70	163	680	34.00	23.1
2001	69	161	672	33.50	22.5
2002	69	158	685	30.60	21.0
2003	69	170	706	40.10	28.3
2004	67	169	768	47.10	36.2
2005	67	190	778	60.90	47.4
2006	n.a.	188	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

N.a. = not available. 1/Average market price, U.S. Source: USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office.

MINK PELT PRODUCTION AND PRICE

